

83

--The present invention relates to a variant of a parent Termamyl-like  $\alpha$ -amylase, which variant  $\alpha$ -amylase has been altered in comparison to the parent  $\alpha$ -amylase in one or more solvent exposed amino acid residues on the surface of the  $\alpha$ -amylase to increase the overall hydrophobicity of the  $\alpha$ -amylase and/or to increase the overall numbers of methyl groups in the sidechains of said solvent exposed amino acid residues on the surface.--

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-18, 24, 27, 29, 31 and 41 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

- 84
42. A DNA sequence encoding an alpha-amylase, said alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO:4 and having an alteration at either or both S356 and Y358, using SEQ ID NO:4 for numbering.
43. The DNA sequence of claim 42, wherein the alteration is at S356.
44. The DNA sequence of claim 42, wherein the alteration is at Y358.
45. The DNA sequence of claim 42, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.
46. The DNA sequence of claim 42, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.
47. The DNA sequence of claim 42, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.
48. The DNA sequence of claim 42, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID

NO:4.

49. The DNA sequence of claim 43, wherein the alteration is S356A.

50. The DNA sequence of claim 44, wherein the alteration is Y358F.

51. The DNA sequence of claim 42, further comprising one or more of the following alterations: 156Y+181T+190F+209V+264S.

52. The DNA sequence of claim 42, further comprising an alteration at one or more of the following positions: K176, I201, and H205.

53. The DNA sequence of claim 42, further comprising one or more of the following alterations: K176R, I201F and H205N.

54. A DNA sequence encoding an alpha-amylase, said alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 60% identical to SEQ ID NO:4 and having an alteration of one or more of E376K, S417T, and A420Q,R, using SEQ ID NO:4 for numbering.

55. The DNA sequence of any of claim 54, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

56. The DNA sequence of any of claims 54, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

57. The DNA sequence of any of claims 54, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

58. The DNA sequence of any of claims 54, wherein the DNA sequence encodes for an alpha-amylase having an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

59. The DNA sequence of claim 54, wherein the alteration is E376K
60. The DNA sequence of claim 54, wherein the alteration is S417T.
61. The DNA sequence of claim 54, wherein the alteration is A420Q,R
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